HO-440 Mt. Pisgah AME Church 8649 Old Annapolis Road, Route 108 Private

#### Description:

Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church is located on the southwest side of the road and It is a one-story, three-bay by one-bay rock-faced concrete block structure with German siding on the gable ends and a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge and asphalt shingles. The foundation, sills, and lintels are all concrete. There is a projecting tower on the northeast end that has German siding on the upper story and a hipped roof. The northeast elevation has a homemade date stone in concrete at the north corner that reads "September 23, 1923." The windows have Gothic sash. On the interior the walls are covered with paneling and the ceiling has tiles that follow the pitch of the roof.

#### Significance:

The history of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church is at best confused. Cleora Barnes Thompson called it the Bellow's Springs Methodist Church and stated that the mid-nineteenth century building was given to the residents of Jonestown and the building was moved to its current location. If true, that building was replaced by the existing structure, which was built in 1923 of rock-faced concrete block. The building has a home-made date stone at one corner that gives the date. Local tradition states that an earlier wood church burned in 1898, but the location of that building is not known. In 1901 the lot on which the existing church apparently sits was sold by Plato and Evelina Green to the trustees of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church for \$50, presumably for the purpose of replacing the burned building. No other deeds to the church trustees for land in the immediate area could be found. At the same time the trustees mortgaged the property for \$125, presumably to raise money to construct a new building. The lot was in Jonestown, which according to local tradition was founded by and named for Augustus M. Jones.

#### Inventory No. HO-440

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of F	Property	(indicate preferred n	ame)		
historic	Mt. Pisgah AM	E Church			
other					
2. Location					
street and number	8649 Old Anna	polis Road, Route 108		8	not for publication
city, town	Jonestown				vicinity
county	Howard				
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and mailing	addresses of all o	wners)	
name	Gyung Hyang (	Garden Presbyterian Church,	Inc.		
street and number	8675 Old Anna	polis Road, Route 108		telephone	
city, town	Columbia		state MD	zip code	21044
4. Location	of Legal D	escription			
courthouse, registry	y of deeds, etc.	Howard County Courthouse	<del></del>	liber 3710 folio 1	85
city, town	Ellicott City	tax map 30	tax parcel 2	225 tax	D number
Contri Deterr Deterr Recor	buting Resource mined Eligible for mined Ineligible for ded by HABS/HA ic Structure Repo	rt or Research Report at MHT	and Register		
Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resourc	e Count
district	public	agriculture	landscape	Contributi	
X_building(s) structure	X_private both	commerce/trade defense	recreation/c	ulture 1	buildings 0 sites
site		domestic	social	0	0 structure
object		education	transportation		objects
		funerary government	work in prog unknown	gress 0	Total
		health care	X vacant/not i	n use Number o	of Contributing Resources
		industry	other:		y listed in the Inventory
				150 pt 15	1

7	Da	001	in	tio	n
1.	De	<b>5</b> 01	ıμ	LIC	ш

Inventory No. HO-440

#### Condition

	_excellent	deteriorated
X	good	ruins
	_ fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### Description:

Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church is located at 8649 Old Annapolis Road, on the southwest side of the road, in Columbia in central Howard County, Maryland. The church is set back about 12 feet from the sidewalk and faces northeast toward the road. It is a one-story, three-bay by one-bay rock-faced concrete block structure with German siding on the gable ends and a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge and asphalt shingles. The foundation, sills, and lintels are all concrete. There is a projecting tower on the northeast end that has German siding on the upper story and a hipped roof. The northeast elevation has a homemade date stone in concrete at the north corner that reads "September 23, 1923." The tower in the center has two new flush hollow core doors and a six-light transom. The transom bar has an ogee above a small cavetto, with a bevel at the bottom. The end bays have Gothic sash with three lights over four lights, but the tops have been removed for air conditioning and stored in the crawl space in this building. The tower has a wood louver on all four sides. Both the southeast and northwest elevations have two Gothic sash and a wood box cornice. The southwest elevation has a single Gothic sash on the first story, with an opening below it to the crawl space.

The interior has 2 ½-inch-wide flooring that appears to be pine and runs northeast-southwest. The walls are covered with paneling and the ceiling has tiles that follow the pitch of the roof. There is chair rail that is covered by the paneling trim. The architrave has a wide sunken center fascia and has bulls-eye corner blocks. Some edges of these blocks were cut back where the paneling covers it. The sash are double hung, with three Gothic lights at the top, and have colored pebble glass, especially blue and red and clear. It appears that there was a pattern to the glass, with the top sash having clear glass in the center top light, with blue glass to the left and red glass to the right, while the bottom sash had red glass in the top left and blue glass in the bottom right lights and clear glass in the top right and bottom left lights. The sash have parting beads but no sash weights. There is a dais at the southwest end that is raised one step and has four square pine newel posts with turned balls on top of them. The railing is moulded oak and there are turned pine balusters that are tapered and are very thin near the top and bottom. This material appears to be reused. The pews and the pulpit are new.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. HO-440
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	<ul> <li>economics</li> <li>education</li> <li>engineering</li> <li>entertainment/</li> <li>recreation</li> <li>ethnic heritage</li> <li>exploration/</li> <li>settlement</li> </ul>	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates	N/A		Architect/Builder N/A	
Construction da	ates 1923			
Evaluation for:	National Register		Maryland Register	Xnot evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The history of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church is at best confused. Cleora Barnes Thompson called it the Bellow's Springs Methodist Church and stated that the mid-nineteenth century building was given to the residents of Jonestown and the building was moved to its current location. If true, that building was replaced by the existing structure, which was built in 1923 of rock-faced concrete block. The building has a home-made date stone at one corner that gives the date, and there is a record of the men and women who contributed to the new church in 1923. Local tradition states that an earlier wood church burned in 1898, but the location of that building is not known. In 1901 the lot on which the existing church apparently sits was sold by Plato and Evelina Green to the trustees of Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church for \$50, presumably for the purpose of replacing the burned building. No other deeds to the church trustees for land in the immediate area could be found. At the same time the trustees mortgaged the property for \$125, presumably to raise money to construct a new building. Whether the new church was built shortly afterward is not known. The lot was in Jonestown, which according to local tradition was founded by and named for Augustus M. Jones. Jones worked at Bartgis Brothers paper mill in Ilchester and acted as a banker for the small African-American community of seven or eight houses that made up Jonestown. Jones lived next door to the existing church and was active in it.

Jonestown has been cut up by the re-alignment of Route 108 and the construction of Route 100, and a number of the original buildings have been demolished or now sit vacant as a result. Most of the members of Mt. Pisgah have since left the congregation to attend St. Stephens Church and the building was sold to the Gyung Hyang Garden Presbyterian Church in 1996. A new church was built on the property and the old A.M.E. church is only occasionally used by some of the old members of the Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church congregation, in cooperation with the new congregation on the site. The building sits close to the road, where its context has been greatly altered, and is threatened by neglect. A long-time member of the church and grandson of Augustus Jones, Gary Wilson, is trying to have the building moved to another location to better preserve it.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Interview with Mr. Gary Wilson, 7 December 2009. Howard County Land Records, JHO 74-530. "Record of Those Who Contributed to the New Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church," in the possession of Gary Wilson.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-440

See footnotes

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property
Acreage of historical setting
Quadrangle name

Savage

Acreage of surveyed property
Savage

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the property lines for tax map 30, parcel 225, which encompasses all of the historic structures on the property.

## 11. Form Prepared by

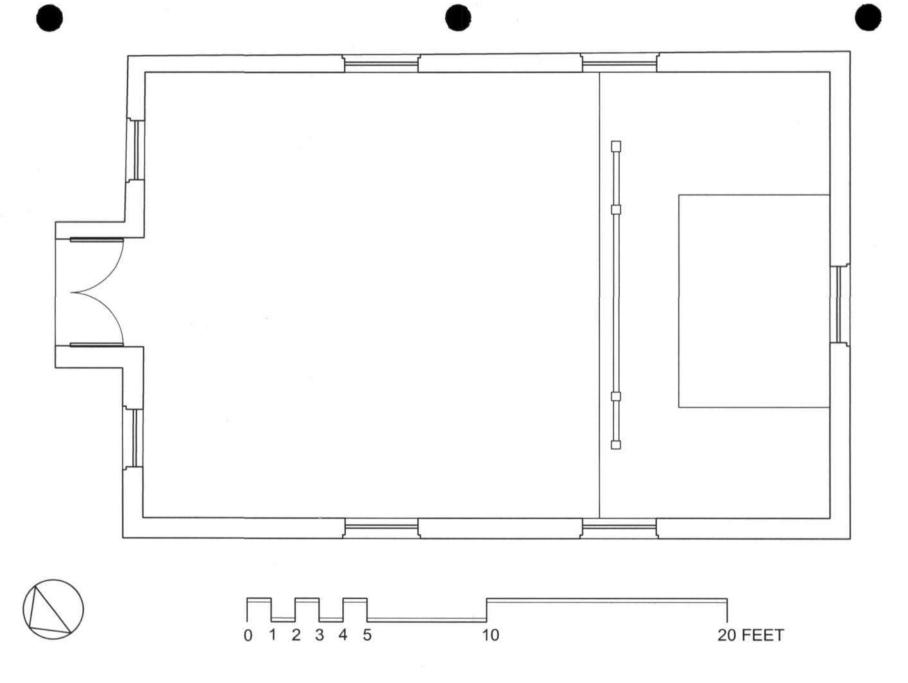
name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	December 2009
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

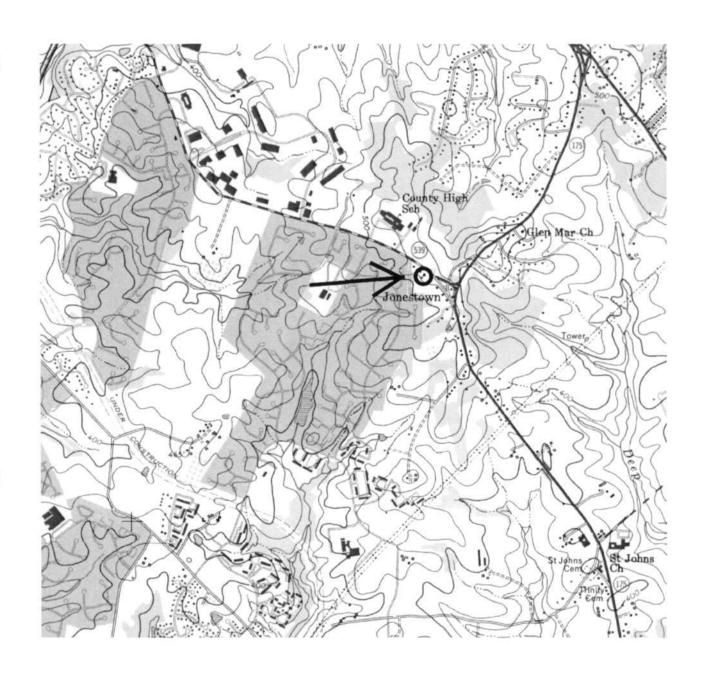
return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600



# HO-440 MT. PISGAH AME CHURCH OLD ANNAPOLIS ROAD

FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT, PETER KURTZE, NANCY KURTZ, & BECKY REICH -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- AUGUST 2009



Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church 8649 Old Annapolis Road, Route 108, Jonestown Savage quad

Mt. Pisgah AME Church 8649 Old Annapolis Road (Route 108) Howard County, Maryland Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log
Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0440\_2009-08-07\_01 Northeast elevation

HO-0440\_2009-08-07\_02 Southeast elevation

HO-0440\_2009-08-07\_03 Interior, vw. southwest



HO-440 Mt. Pisgah AME Church 8649 ord Annapolis Road (Rte. 100) Howard County, MD Ken Short Aug. 7, 2009 MT SHRO Northeast Elevation





HO-440 Ht. Pisgah AME Church 8649 and Annapolis Road (Rte. 108) Howard County MD Ken Shert Aug. 7,2009 MD 5HPO South east Elevation





40-440 MH Pisquh AME Church 8649 OPA Annapolis Road (Rte. 108) Howard County, MD Ken Short Aug. 7,2009 MD SHAO Interior, view Southwest 3/3

Ho - 440 Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church/ Bellow's Springs Methodist Church Jonestown Private

Mid-nineteenth Century

Originally located on the boundary line of the Rufus Thompson and Thomas Christian farms, it was known as Bellow's Springs Methodist Church, taking its name after a spring known for its clear sparkling water.

In 1899 it was moved to its present location on the south side of Route 108, facing north, to serve the Jonestown Community.

Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church is representative of gothic revival architecture in the small country church of the nineteenth century. It is a three bay wide, two bay deep, one story high, gable roof (running north-south) stone building with central wooden tent roofed belfry on its north wall holding a double paneled rectangular entrance door, surmounted by a six light transom. One step leads to the entrance which is flanked by rectangular, double-hung windows which hold three-overfour lights inset into gothic arches. Flat wooden sills and lintels decorate the windows. Two similar windows rest in the east and west walls and a central double window in the south wall.

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAGT #1404404408

1 NAME			
HISTORIC			
Bellow's Spring Methodist Chu	ırch		
Mount Pisgah AME Church			
LOCATION		8	
STREET & NUMBER			
Old Annapolis Road - Route 10	10		4
CITY, TOWN	10	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	HCT
Jonestown, Ellicott City -	VICINITY OF	6th	
Maryland		COUNTY	
CLASSIFICATION		Howard	
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICTPUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S) XPRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	RARK
STRUCTUREBOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	
OBJECTIN PROCESSBEING CONSIDERED	YES RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDERED	_XYES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATION
OWNER OF PROPERTY  At. Piscah AME Church		Malanhana #.	
STREET & NUMBER	-	Telephone #:	
Old Annapolis Road, Route 108			
CITY, TOWN		STATE , Z	ip code
Ellicott City, Maryland	VICINITY OF	21043	
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION	Liber #: 7400	
COURTHOUSE. Tax Map 30 p. 217 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records		Folio #: 530	
STREET & NUMBER Howard County Cou	irt House	B Access: 4700	
CITY, TOWN	ar c nouse	-Int -Access -17	
Ellicott City  REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	INC CLIDVEVE		aryland
	ING SURVEIS		
Howard County Historic Sites	Inventory		
DATE		100	
1977	FEDERAL	XSTATE _COUNTY _LOCAL	i .
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical	Trust		3
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
21 State Circle, Ann			yland

### 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT \_GOOD

\_\_RUINS

XALTERED

\_ORIGINAL SITE
X\_MOVED DATE\_

\_FAIR

\_\_UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church faces north on the south side of Route 108. It is a three bay side, two bay deep, stone structure built on a cement block foundation. Its central tent roofed bell tower rises from the base of the north walls' central bay and holds a double rectangular entrance door, surmounted by a six light transom. One step leads to this entrance, which is flanked by rectangular double-hung windows which hold three-over-four-lights inset into gothic arches. Flat wooden sills and lintels decorate the windows. Two similar windows rest in the east and west walls and a similar central double window in the south wall.

The stonework goes up to the eaves sonthat the remainder of the "A" line of the north and south walls is finished with wood frame construction. Square wooden vents are inset into each of the four sides of the upper portion of the central bell tower.

An exterior cement block chimney is located on the west side of the south wall. A rectangular basement entrance is placed west of center in this wall, flanked by two pilasters and surmounted by a flat wooden lintel.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	_XARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE	
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	

\_1700-1799 \_\_ART \_ENGINEERING \_MUSIC THEATER ¥1800-1899 \_\_COMMERCE \_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_TRANSPORTATION \_1900-\_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_INDUSTRY XOTHER (SPECIFY)Black \_INVENTION History

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT mid-nineteenth cen.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This old country gothic revival style church was once located on the boundry line of the Thomas Christian and Rufus Thompson farms, not far from its present site, known as Jonestown. It was moved 2 September,, 1899 as the date on the corner stone indicates.

The original name of the church was "The Bellow's Springs Methodist Church". It was so named for a spring at the end of the 100 acre Christian farm, (also named Bellow's Spring Farm) known for its clear sparkling water. People came from far and near for this water. It is also probable that a black smith shop was located nearby.

Mrs. Edith Christian Curtis remembers playing in this church with the Thompson children as a little girl. When she was quite small the Thompson and Christian families gave the small gothic chapel to the people in Jonestown for their church. It was moved to its present location close to the south side of Route 108 and became the Mount Piscah AME Church. The Christian family then attended the Locust Chapel Methodist Church four miles away at Ilchester. When Trinity Episcopal Chapel was built, just a mile from the Bellow's Springs Farm, Mrs. Edith Christian went there to Sunday School. The minister, Mr. Gardner, said Methodists made the best kind of Episcopalians. As children, Mrs. Curtis and her brothers and sister Ida walked the mile to Sunday school and church. On the first Sunday of each month their father walked four miles to Communion at Trinity Church on the Washington Boulevard near Dorsey.

It is important to note that religion played an important part in the lives of the early settlers of Howard County and in the lives of those who settled here in the nineteenth century. An excerpt from The Geneology of the Christians and the Whipps by Mrs. Edith Christian Curtis relates this significantly:

We did have "blessing: at every meal. We were taught to say our prayers at mother's knee. Every night when bedtime came, we gathered round the dining room table, while Grandfather (Thomas Christian) read a chapter from the Big Bible, sometimes with comments, as when he read the story of the Prodigal Son: "And I'm sure I sympathize with that eldest son". Then

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

### Significance(cont.)

we got on our knees beside our chairs and listened to Grandfather pray, --just like the Brethren used to do in the Methodist Church. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord "rings in my memory. Then we kids kissed Grandma, Grandpa, Mama, and Poppa goodnight, and off upstairs we went. Sometimes we slept through prayers, sometimes we giggled silently at one another. Later we were told we should read a chapter in our Bibles every night.

This small country church which served the small black community of Jonestown is now feeling the effects of the growing new town of Columbia, which is almost at her door step. Fort Meade has offered to give the present congregation one of their unneeded chapels to be moved to this site. It is interesting to note that this will be the second chapel moved to this site if this occurs. It is hoped that the present chapel will be used in some way and remain here, an example of a small gothic country chapel. It is representative of the simple manner in which gothic architecture was adapted for use in the country chapels which dotted the American landscape and served the rural communities of nineteenth century America. Its location, so close to Route 108 and to the new town of Columbia makes it particularly vulnerable.

Historically and architecturally noteworthy, Mount Pisgah AME Church should be placed on the National Register and included in any future local landmark legislation.

Ho -440 Dist. 6

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Edith Christian Curtis, October 5, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_ 5 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 30, Block 24, pl 217

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see liber 74, folio 530 Howard County Land Records.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

STATE

COUNTY

### 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section 465-5000 x257

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

3450 Court House Drive

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

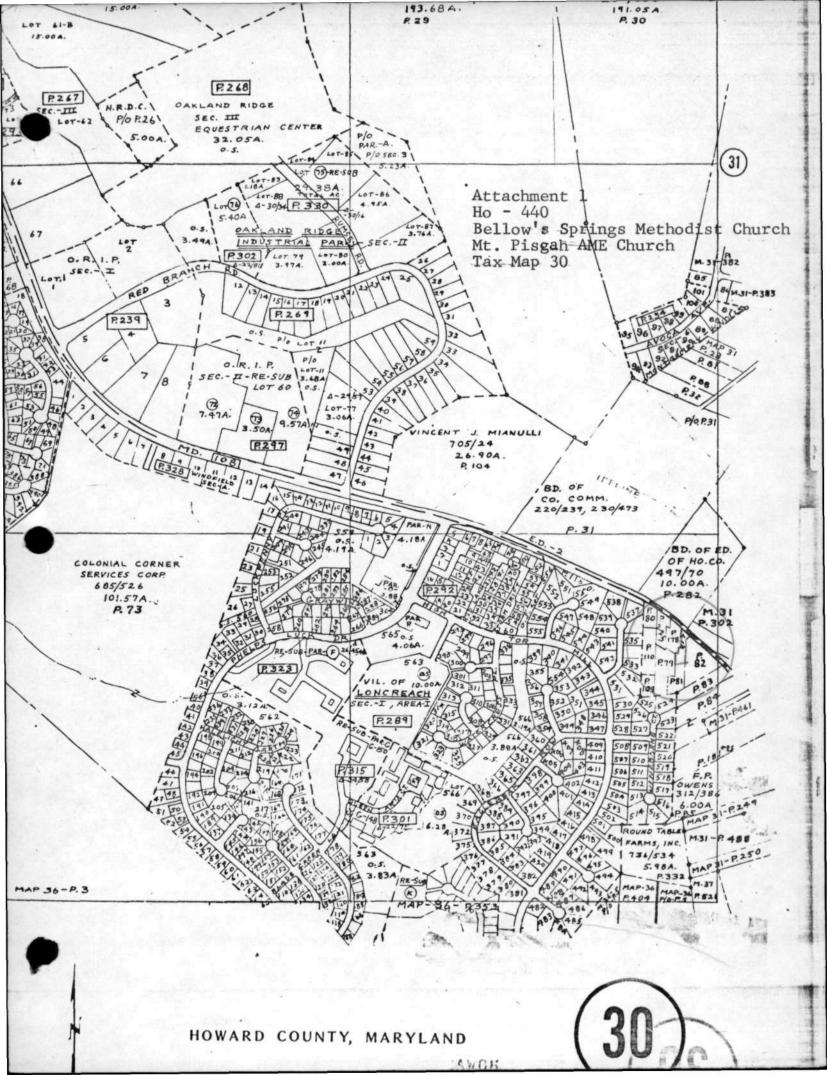
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

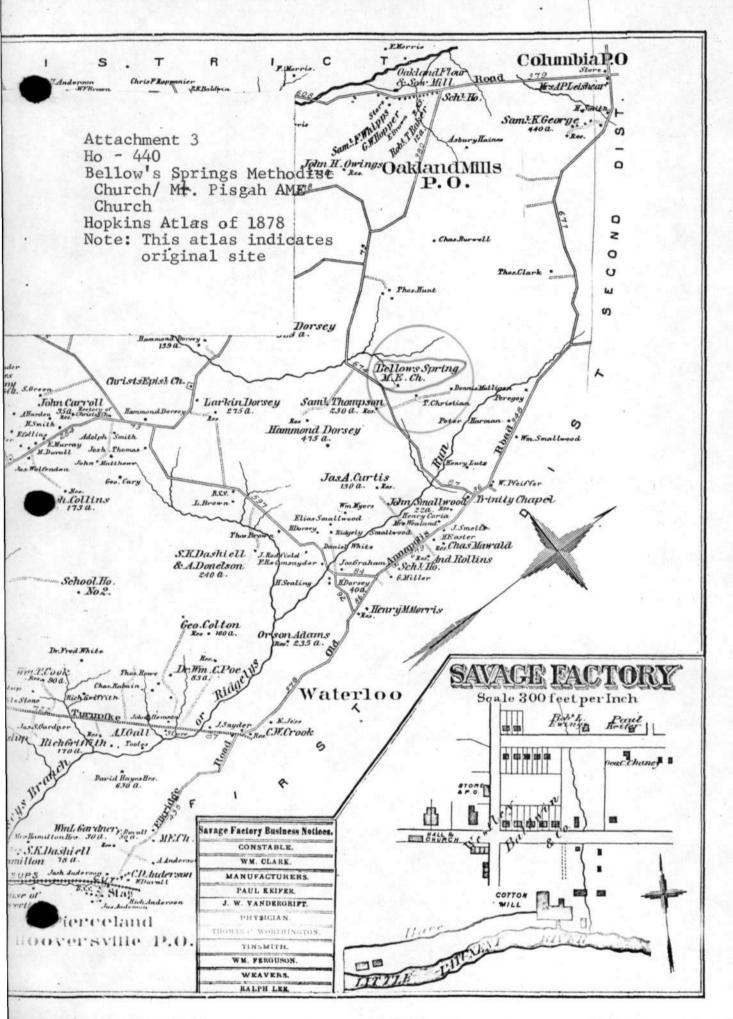
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

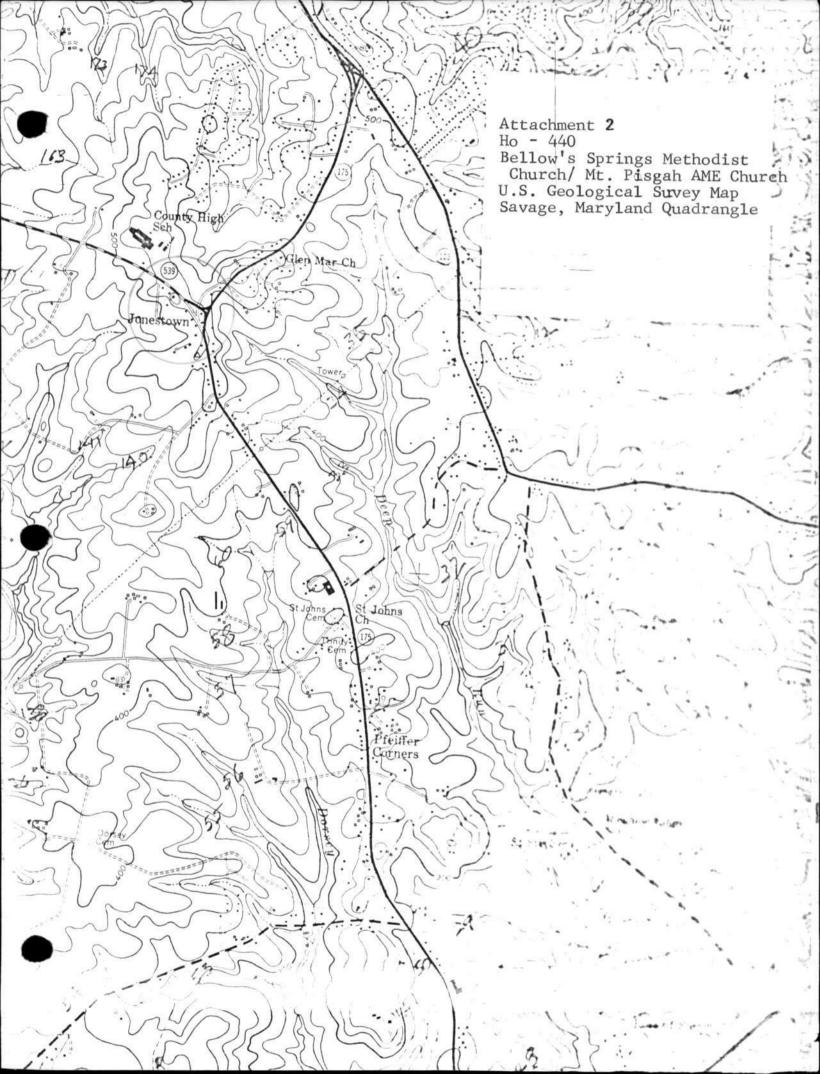
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438









HO-440, BELLOWS SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH/MT. PISGAH ANDE CHURCH NO ATTHEAST

CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON PLANNING CONSULTANT HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY